

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Saturday, the 13th September 1958.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are two short notice questions. Let us take them up first.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, the statement just laid on the table in answer to one of the short notice questions, viz., Question No. 20-A, runs to 6 pages. We would require some time to go through that statement in order to be able to put our supplementaries. May I, therefore, request you, Mr. Chairman, and the Hon. the Minister for Home that the question may be taken up on the 17th September?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is for the Chairman to decide.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Yes, I know. That is why I addressed the request to you both.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have no objection. This question may be postponed to the 17th September.

(Short notice question No. 20-A was accordingly postponed to the 17th September 1958.)

Attack on the passengers at the Kodambakkam Railway station

*20-B **Short Notice** *Question.*—SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there was an attack by a gang on the railway passengers and the railway staff at the Kodambakkam Railway station on Monday, the 8th September 1958;

(*b*) if so, the details thereof; and

(*c*) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Seven local bad characters, some of whom were drunk and armed with sticks and sharpened steel blades created a disturbance at Kodambakkam Railway station at about 1-30 p.m. on 8th September 1958. These men entered Chetput Railway Station and got into an electric train proceeding towards Tambaram. When the

train reached Kodambakkam, one of the passengers, whose pocket was picked by one of the above culprits, alighted and went up to the Station Master's room at Kodambakkam. The culprits followed him, threatened the Assistant Station Master when he took up the telephone receiver and assaulted him. They also cut the telephone wire of the control phone. About this time a train proceeding to Beach Station pulled up when two or three of the culprits beat the sides of the train with their sticks and one threatened the driver of the train, and applied the hand brake. The culprits then made away over the eastern parapet wall.

(c) The Railway Police, the C.I.D. and the City Police are taking necessary action to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Is it not a fact that these incidents have taken place in broad daylight? I think similar incidents have also been reported in Mambalam and Nungambakkam also. May I, therefore, request the Government to take some serious steps in conjunction with the Railway authorities to see that such incidents do not recur?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir, these incidents have taken place in broad daylight. There are one or two more incidents as mentioned by the hon. Member. The Government and the Police have been looking into the matter in co-operation with the Railway Police and Railway administration. The whole matter is being looked into by us.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are there not any Police posted as escorts in these trains?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There are a few guards for the railways, but not at all the railway stations. In fact, there is no Police available in Kodambakkam Railway station.

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : கோடம்பாக்கம் ரயில் நிலையத்திலே தகராறு விளைவித்த கூட்டம், கொள்ளையடிக்கவேண்டும் என்ற நோக்கத்தோடு செய்யும் சதிக் கூட்டத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களா ? அல்லது, குடி வெறியினால் புத்தியிழந்து இந்தக் குற்றத்தில் இறங்கினார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : இரண்டும் சேர்ந்திருக்கலாம். திருடவேண்டுமென்பதற்காகவும் இருக்கலாம். குடித்தால் திருடுவதற்கு இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் பலம் ஏற்படும் என்பதற்காகவும் குடித்து இருக்கலாம்.

அவர்களெல்லாம் சென்னை நகரத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள்தான். வெளியூர்களைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் அல்ல.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Home himself has admitted that there have been one or two more such cases. May I enquire whether it was brought to his notice that a similar incident happened in Peters Road two days back when an aged Muslim going in a rickshaw at about 8 or 9 o'clock was stopped by some persons who took away from him a purse containing Rs. 1,400?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Only just now, I am having the information from the hon. Member.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : In view of the occurrence of such incidents which are being reported quite often in the papers, a certain sense of insecurity is prevailing among certain sections of the people. So, will the Government see that such a sense of insecurity does not prevail, by taking effective steps?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not think there is such a general sense of insecurity. I would appeal to the hon. Members not to do anything which would tend to create such a scare.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : Is there anything to show that the passengers in the train did anything to help themselves?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. the Deputy Chairman that the passengers in the train were not attacked by these people.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, I take strong objection to the remark made by the Hon. Minister. He said that the Members were trying to do things which would tend to create a sense of insecurity. After all, when such incidents take place, we have to bring them to the notice of the Hon. the Home Minister. However powerful he is, he has no business to cast aspersions and pass such remarks in such a light-hearted manner.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I submit to you that it is the wish of everyone of us in this House that we should not do anything which would tend to create any sense of insecurity in the minds of the public.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know whether any complaints from the people of Kodambakkam and Nungambakkam, have been received reporting frequent cases of theft in the last twelve months or so?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would like to have notice. So far as I am aware, no such complaints have been received.

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : இந்தச் சம்பவம்பற்றித் துப்புக் கண்டு பிடிப்பதற்கு நாய்கள் உபயோகப்படுத்தப்பட்டனவா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : ஏதாவது திருட்டுப் போனால், அதுபற்றிப் புலன் விசாரிப்பதற்கு நாய்கள் உபயோகப்படுத்தப் படுகின்றன.

SRI P. T. RAJAN : May I know whether the Government will be pleased to arm some of the officials of the railways so that they may protect themselves in times of emergency?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not know the exact state of affairs to-day. Unless I know what it is, it will not be possible for me to answer that question, Sir.

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SRI P. T. RAJAN : My point is this. The incidents such as the one reported in Kodambakkam could not have taken place at least if the railway officials had been provided with fire-arms. At least, they could have effectively scared away the culprits.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no doubt that the hon. Member will agree with me that fire-arms should not be provided to anyone unless he is trained to use them in a proper manner. If a driver is provided with fire-arms in the manner suggested by the hon. Member, I am not sure that the driver who will be doing his normal work will also be able to use the fire-arm correctly. I do not know whether it is a desirable thing.

Modakuruchi Block Development area

* 21 *Q.*—SRI K. M. RAMASAMY GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is fact that the staff in the Modakuruchi Block Development area, Erode taluk, live outside the area in Erode and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(*b*) the steps, if any, taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon the Chief Minister) : (*a*) No. All the members of the staff of Modakuruchi block reside either in Modakuruchi or in one of its hamlets.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Fertilizer Advisory Committee

* 22 *Q.*—SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have constituted a Fertilizer Advisory Committee; and

(*b*) if so, the names of members and the functions of the Committee?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The answer [a] is placed on the table of the House.

Nurses in the College of Integrated Medicine

* 23 *Q.*—SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the nurses employed in the College of Integrated Medicine, Madras, are given any refresher courses in Indigenous Medicine?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No, Sir. But they are eligible to undergo Refresher Courses in modern medicine like the nurses and head-nurses of other hospitals.

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 283 infra.